



**ARUBA**  
**TODAY**

Friday  
June 9, 2023  
T: 582-7800  
[www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com)  
[facebook.com/arubatoday](https://facebook.com/arubatoday)  
[instagram.com/arubatoday](https://instagram.com/arubatoday)

Aruba to me

Page 7

Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

# Supreme Court rules in favor of Black Alabama voters

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Thursday issued a surprising 5-4 ruling in favor of Black voters in a congressional redistricting case from Alabama, with two conservative justices joining liberals in rejecting a Republican-led effort to weaken a landmark voting rights law. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh aligned with the court's liberals in affirming a lower-court ruling that found a likely violation of the Voting Rights Act in an Alabama congressional map with one majority Black seat out of seven districts in a state where more than one in four residents is Black. The state now will have to draw a new map for next year's elections. The decision was keenly anticipated for its potential effect on control of the closely divided U.S. House of Representatives.



Alabama Solicitor General Edmund LaCour, right, speaks alongside Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall following oral arguments in *Merrill v. Milligan*, an Alabama redistricting case, outside the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 4, 2022. Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

**El Gaucho**  
ARGENTINE GRILL

**For the BEST & the BIGGEST Steak**  
*and so much more!*

**Lobby Bar Menu**

**FRIDAYS**  
**2 FOR 1 Sangria**

**Lunch Special**  
EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM

**\$28.90** + 15% SC  
TAX IS INCLUDED.

**Local Deal**  
SATURDAY

**15% OFF** For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Mondays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • [www.elgaucho-aruba.com](http://www.elgaucho-aruba.com)



# Supreme Court rules in favor of Black Alabama voters

Continued from Front

Because of the ruling, new maps are likely in Alabama and Louisiana that could allow Democratic-leaning Black voters to elect their preferred candidates in two more congressional districts.

The outcome was unexpected in that the court had allowed the challenged Alabama map to be used for the 2022 elections, and in arguments last October the justices appeared willing to make it harder to challenge redistricting plans as racially discriminatory under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The chief justice himself suggested last year that he was open to changes in the way courts weigh discrimination claims under the part of the law known as section 2. But on Thursday, Roberts wrote that the court was declining "to recast our section 2 case law as Alabama requests."

Roberts also was part of conservative high-court majorities in earlier cases that made it harder for racial minorities to use the Voting Rights Act in ideologically divided rulings in 2013 and 2021.

The other four conservative justices dissented Thursday. Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the decision forces "Alabama to intentionally redraw its long-standing congressional districts so that black voters can control a number of seats roughly proportional to the black share of the State's population. Section 2 demands no such thing, and, if it did, the Constitution would not permit it."

The Biden administration sided with the Black voters in Alabama.

Attorney General Merrick Garland applauded the ruling: "Today's decision rejects efforts to further erode fundamental voting rights protections, and preserves the principle that in the United States, all eligible voters must be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote free from discrimination based on their race."



**Evan Milligan, center, plaintiff in Merrill v. Milligan, an Alabama redistricting case, speaks with members of the press following oral arguments outside the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 4, 2022.**

Associated Press

Evan Milligan, a Black voter and the lead plaintiff in the case, said the ruling was a victory for democracy and people of color.

"We are grateful that the Supreme Court upheld what we knew to be true: that everyone deserves to have their vote matter and their voice heard. Today is a win for democracy and freedom not just in Alabama but across the United States," Milligan said.

Alabama Republican Party Chairman John Wahl said in a statement that state lawmakers would comply with the ruling. "Regardless of our disagreement with the Court's decision, we are confident the Alabama Legislature will redraw district lines that ensure the people of Alabama are represented by members who share their beliefs, while following the requirements of applicable law,"

Wahl said.

But Steve Marshall, the state's Republican attorney general, said he expects to continue defending the challenged map in federal court, including at a full trial. "Although the majority's decision is disappointing, this case is not over," Marshall said in a statement. Deuel Ross, a civil rights lawyer who argued the case at the Supreme Court, said the justices have validated the lower court's view in this case. A full trial "doesn't seem a good use of Alabama's time, resources or the money of the people to continue to litigate their case."

The case stems from challenges to Alabama's seven-district congressional map, which included one district in which Black voters form a large enough majority that they have the power to elect their preferred

candidate.

The challengers said that one district is not enough, pointing out that overall, Alabama's population is more than 25% Black.

A three-judge court, with two appointees of former President Donald Trump, had little trouble concluding that the plan likely violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the votes of Black Alabamians. That "likely" violation was the standard under which the preliminary injunction was issued by the three-judge panel, which ordered a new map drawn.

But the state quickly appealed to the Supreme Court, where five conservative justices prevented the lower-court ruling from going forward. At the same time, the court decided to hear the Alabama case. Louisiana's congressional map had separately been

identified as probably discriminatory by a lower court. That map, too, remained in effect last year and now will have to be redrawn.

The National Redistricting Foundation said in a statement that its pending lawsuits over congressional districts in Georgia and Texas also could be affected.

Separately, the Supreme Court in the fall will hear South Carolina's appeal of a lower-court ruling that found Republican lawmakers stripped Black voters from a district to make it safer for a Republican candidate.

That case also could lead to a redrawn map in South Carolina, where six U.S. House members are Republicans and one is a Democrat.

Partisan politics also underlies the Alabama case. Republicans who dominate elective office in Alabama have been resistant to creating a second district with a Democratic-leaning Black majority, or close to one, that could send another Democrat to Congress.

The judges found that Alabama concentrated Black voters in one district, while spreading them out among the others to make it much more difficult to elect more than one candidate of their choice.

Alabama's Black population is large enough and geographically compact enough to create a second district, the judges found.

Denying discrimination, Alabama argued that the lower court ruling would have forced it to sort voters by race and insisted it was taking a "race neutral" approach to redistricting.

At arguments in October, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson scoffed at the idea that race could not be part of the equation. Jackson, the court's first Black woman, said that constitutional amendments passed after the Civil War and the Voting Rights Act a century later were intended to do the same thing, make Black Americans "equal to white citizens." □



# Former President Trump braces for possible federal charges

By **ERIC TUCKER,**  
**JILL COLVIN** and  
**MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
**Associated Press**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Former President Donald Trump and his aides are bracing for a potential indictment in the classified documents investigation as prosecutors handling the probe were spotted Thursday at a Miami courthouse where a grand jury has been hearing from witnesses.

The former president's lawyers have been told he is a target of the investigation, the clearest indication yet that criminal charges could be coming soon, according to two people familiar with the matter. In an effort to get ahead of a potential indictment, aides over the last two days have been reaching out to Trump allies in Congress to be prepared to go on television and offer defenses of the former president, according to another person familiar with the matter.

The people spoke on condition anonymity to discuss matters related to the secretive grand jury process. Meanwhile, a grand jury in Miami heard from at least one additional witness this week — a former top aide to Trump — as signs continued mounting that prosecutors were building toward a potential indictment related to the handling of hundreds of classified documents at Trump's Florida home, Mar-a-Lago. On Monday, his lawyers met with Justice Department of-



**News media are set up outside of the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. U.S. Courthouse where a grand jury is meeting, Wednesday, June 7, 2023, in Miami.**

**Associated Press**

ficials in Washington to argue against an indictment, exiting the building stone-faced less than two hours later without commenting. Trump, meanwhile, has issued social media posts this week suggesting he anticipates being charged and has escalated attacks on special counsel Jack Smith and his team. And a key prosecutor on the team, David Harbach, was spotted by an Associated Press journalist outside the courthouse on Thursday.

The notification to Trump's lawyers that he is a target is especially ominous given that such a warning often, though not always, precedes criminal charges. The Justice Department defines a target as someone whom prosecutors have substantial evidence linking to a crime.

"The signal is increasingly that the charges against the former president will be in Florida," said Brandon Van Grack, a former Justice Department prosecutor and a key lawyer on an earlier special counsel team that investigated ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign. Lawyers for Trump did not return calls seeking comment. A Trump spokesman would not confirm or deny receiving a letter and a Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment.

On Wednesday, Taylor Budowich, who had served as a spokesman for Trump after his presidency and now runs a pro-Trump super PAC, testified before the grand jury. He confirmed his appearance on Twitter, writing, "Today, in what

can only be described as a bogus and deeply troubling effort to use the power of government to 'get' Trump, I fulfilled a legal obligation to testify in front a federal grand jury and I answered every question honestly."

A variety of witnesses, including lawyers for Trump, close aides to the former president and officials with the Trump Organization, have appeared over the past year before the grand jury in Washington as part of a Justice Department special counsel investigation into Trump over the retention of hundreds of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and potential obstruction of the government's efforts to reclaim the records.

But the existence of a separate grand jury in Florida

adds a wrinkle to an investigation that has been largely shrouded in mystery and has been thought to be in its end stages. It suggests that prosecutors may be moving toward bringing criminal charges in Florida, where the documents were taken after Trump left the White House and where multiple acts of alleged obstruction have occurred, instead of in Washington.

Though the bulk of the investigative work has been done in Washington, prosecutors could simply read key testimony to the Florida grand jury or have a summary witness summarize all the key evidence, Van Grack said.

Trump's lawyers met at the Justice Department on Monday with officials including Smith, part of an effort by the legal team to raise concerns about what they say is prosecutorial misconduct and to try to argue against a potential indictment. After that meeting, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform in capital letters,

"How can DOJ possibly charge me, who did nothing wrong," when no other presidents have been charged.

He also called into a radio show, where he confirmed the meeting with his lawyers and said: "Well, I can just say this: They did go in and they saw 'em and they said very unfair. No other president has ever been charged with anything like this.'" □

## Ashish Jha, White House COVID-19 coordinator, to leave post

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Ashish Jha, the White House's point person on the COVID-19 response, will depart from the administration next week. The White House said Thursday that Jha will return to Brown University, where he had served as the dean of the university's school of public health before joining the White House as its COVID-19 coordinator in April 2022. His departure comes

after the federal government ended its twin national emergencies on the virus earlier this spring.

In a statement announcing Jha's departure, President Joe Biden said COVID-19 "no longer controls our daily lives."

"As one of the leading public health experts in America, he has effectively translated and communicated complex scientific chal-

lenges into concrete actions that helped save and improve the lives of millions of Americans," Biden said in the statement announcing Jha's departure. "I extend my deepest thanks to Ashish and his family. We are a stronger and healthier nation because of his contributions to public service." Biden's first COVID-19 czar was Jeff Zients, now the White House chief of staff. □



**White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Ashish Jha speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



# Main suspect in 2005 disappearance of Natalee Holloway arrives in US from Peru to face charges

By **KIM CHANDLER, REGINA GARCIA CANO and FRANKLIN BRICEÑO**

**Associated Press**

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —**

Joran van der Sloot, the chief suspect in the 2005 disappearance of Natalee Holloway, arrived in the United States from Peru on Thursday to face charges that he attempted to extort money from the missing woman's mother.

An FBI-operated plane carrying van der Sloot landed at Birmingham's Shuttlesworth Airport about 2:30 p.m. just hours after Peruvian authorities handed him over temporarily to U.S. custody and the suspect was escorted down the steps into a black SUV, which brought him to a local jail. Van der Sloot will appear in federal court later to face the charges.

The suspect has been serving a 28-year sentence in Peru after confessing to killing a Peruvian woman. He is wanted in the U.S. on one count each of extortion and wire fraud the only charges to have ever linked the Dutch citizen to Holloway's disappearance on the Caribbean island of Aruba. He was handed over to the U.S. roughly a month after both countries agreed on his extradition. Holloway's mother, Beth



**Dutch citizen Joran van der Sloot, center, is driven in a police vehicle from the Ancon I maximum-security prison, outskirts of Lima, Peru, Thursday, June 8, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

Holloway, said she was "overcome with mixed emotions."

"As a mother who has tirelessly pursued justice for the abduction and murder of my precious daughter, I stand before you today with a heart both heavy with sorrow and yet lifted by a glimmer of hope," she said in a written statement. "For 18 years, I have lived with the unbearable pain of Natalee's loss. Each day has been filled with unanswered questions and a longing for justice that has

eluded us at every turn. But today ... I am hopeful that some small semblance of justice may finally be realized."

Natalee Holloway, 18, was on a high school graduation trip with classmates in Aruba when she vanished. She was last seen leaving a bar with van der Sloot in 2005. Van der Sloot was questioned in Holloway's disappearance, but never charged. U.S. prosecutors said that in 2010, van der Sloot reached out to Beth Holloway, seeking \$250,000

to disclose the location of the young woman's body. A grand jury indicted him that year on one count each of wire fraud and extortion. Holloway's body has never been found.

Video and photos released by Peruvian authorities Thursday showed van der Sloot wearing jeans and a black puffer jacket, shaking his shoulders and grimacing as officers adjusted his handcuffs and removed an Interpol-marked vest. Footage and images also showed van der Sloot in a

conference room with law enforcement officers from Peru, the FBI and Interpol, and a health care professional.

Holloway's mysterious disappearance sparked years of news coverage and countless true-crime podcasts.

In 2012, van der Sloot pleaded guilty in Peru to killing 21-year-old Stephany Flores, a business student from a prominent Peruvian family. She was killed in 2010 five years to the day after Holloway's disappearance. Van der Sloot married a Peruvian woman in July 2014 in a ceremony at a maximum-security prison. He was transferred among Peruvian prisons in response to reports that he enjoyed privileges such as television, internet access and a cell-phone, and accusations that he had threatened to kill a warden.

A 2001 treaty between Peru and the U.S. allows a suspect to be temporarily extradited to face trial in the other country.

Van der Sloot's attorney, Máximo Altez, initially indicated his client would not challenge his extradition but that changed Monday when he filed a writ of habeas corpus. A judge ruled against van der Sloot the following day. □

## Teen accused of providing gift cards to help support terrorist group

By **MARK PRATT**

**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP) —** An 18-year-old Massachusetts man sent gift cards worth a total of \$1,670 to someone he thought was a supporter of the Islamic State group that he intended to be used to fund a war on nonbelievers, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

Mateo Ventura, of Wakefield, was held pending a bail hearing next Wednesday during an initial appearance Thursday in U.S. District Court in Worcester. He is charged with knowingly concealing the

source of material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization, the U.S. attorney's office in Boston said in a statement.

An email seeking comment was left with Ventura's federal public defender.

His father, Paul Ventura, said outside of court that his son has learning and developmental issues and is being "railroaded" by federal authorities.

"My son said, 'Dad, I don't understand, I didn't do anything wrong,'" when the FBI came to the door and arrested him Thursday morning, Paul Ventura said.

Ventura wanted the gift cards to be sold on the dark web for slightly less than face value with the resulting proceeds to be used to support the Islamic State group, prosecutors said. Between August 2020 and August 2021, Ventura provided about 25 cards with a total face value of \$965 to someone he thought was an Islamic State group sympathizer but was actually an undercover FBI agent, according to an FBI affidavit included in court documents.

Ventura was still a juvenile at the time. □



**Paul Ventura, left, father of 18-year-old Mateo Ventura, both of Wakefield, Mass., displays a photograph on his cell phone that shows what he describes as a photo of himself and his son Mateo, right, while speaking with reporters outside federal court, Thursday, June 8, 2023, in Worcester, Mass.**

**Associated Press**



## After years of bickering, EU claims breakthrough in migration talks

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — European Union countries have made a breakthrough in migration talks, sealing agreement on a plan to share out responsibility for migrants entering Europe without authorization, the root of one of the bloc's longest-running political crises, officials said late Thursday.

After a long day of negotiations in Luxembourg, EU interior ministers endorsed a deal balancing the obligation for countries where most migrants arrive to process and lodge them against the requirement for other members to provide support, whether financial or by hosting refugees.

The pact will form the 27 EU countries' negotiating stance in talks with the European Parliament, which has a different view of solidarity — one that requires countries to draw up detailed "annual migrant support plans" to help out frontline member states and the mandatory relocation of refugees.



A view of part of the wreckage of a capsized boat that was washed ashore at a beach near Cutro, southern Italy, on Feb. 27, 2023.

Indeed, given the divergent positions, it's possible the agreement could unravel during those negotiations.

Swedish Migration Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard, whose country currently holds the EU's rotating presidency and brokered

the agreement, described the deal as "a historic step and a great success," but she expressed surprise that the long-held divisions had been overcome.

"To be honest, I didn't really believe I would be sitting here saying this, but here we are," she told re-

porters. She said the contents of the deal form "the main pillars of the reform of the EU asylum system and are key to a good balance between responsibility and solidarity."

Europe's asylum system collapsed eight years ago after well over a million peo-

ple entered most of them fleeing conflict in Syria and overwhelmed reception capacities in Greece and Italy, in the process sparking one of the EU's biggest political crises.

The 27 EU nations have bickered ever since over which countries should take responsibility for people arriving without authorization, and whether other members should be obliged to help them cope.

Not all countries endorsed the plan on Thursday but only a "qualified majority" of support was required — that is roughly two thirds of the member countries accounting for about two thirds of the total EU population of some 450 million people.

The Czech Republic asked to be left out of the migrant "solidarity clause" due to the number of refugees it is already hosting from Ukraine.

Malta abstained, but the objections of Italy and Greece — those hardest hit in the past — were overcome in a late round of talks. □

Associated Press

## South Korean inquiry to look into 237 more foreign adoptions

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said Thursday it will investigate 237 more cases of South Korean adoptees who suspect their family origins were manipulated to facilitate their adoptions in Europe and the United States.

The new cases in the commission's expanded inquiry into South Korea's foreign adoption boom involve adoptees in 11 nations including the United States, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden who were adopted from 1960 to 1990. More than 370 adoptees from Europe, North America and Australia filed applications last year demanding their cases be investigated.

When the commission said it would investigate the first

34 cases in December, it said the records of many adoptees sent to the West had clearly been manipulated and falsely described them as orphans or faked their identities by borrowing the details of a third person. The commission said most of the applicants claim their adoptions were based on falsified records that laundered their status or origin to ensure their adoptability and expedite custody transfers across borders. Some applicants asked the commission to look into abuse they say they experienced at South Korean orphanages or under the care of their foreign adoptive parents.

The commission's potential findings could allow adoptees to take legal actions against agencies or the government, which would otherwise be difficult be-

cause South Korean civil courts put the burden of proof entirely on plaintiffs, who often lack information and resources.

Of the 271 cases accepted by the commission so far, 141 are those of Danish adoptees, including members of the Danish Korean Rights Group co-led by adoptee activist Peter Møller, which submitted the initial 51 applications in August last year. Other cases accepted by the commission include those of 28 U.S. adoptees and 21 from Swedish adoptees, officials said.

The commission, which is reviewing the applications in the order they were submitted, is likely to investigate the remaining 101 cases, too, according to officials. About 200,000 South Koreans, mostly girls, were adopted to the West in the

past six decades, creating what's believed to be the world's largest diaspora of adoptees. Most were placed with white parents in the United States and Europe during the 1970s and '80s. South Korea was then ruled by a succession of

military dictatorships, which were focused on economic growth and saw adoptions as a tool to reduce the number of mouths to feed, erase the "social problem" of unwed mothers and deepen ties with the democratic West. □



Peter Møller, second from right, attorney and co-founder of the Danish Korean Rights Group, submits the documents at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Seoul, South Korea, Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press



## Kosovo complains of biased western envoys in talks with Serbia

by **LLAZAR SEMINI**

**Associated Press**

**PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)** —

Kosovo's prime minister on Thursday complained of bias against his country from the United States and the European Union and tolerance of what he called Serbia's authoritarian regime.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti said his Cabinet took a different stance. "We insist that behaving well with an autocrat doesn't make him behave better. On the contrary," he said.

The U.S. and EU envoys for the Kosovo-Serbia talks Gabriel Escobar and Miroslav Lajcak respectively "come to us with demands, with requests of the other side," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ethnic Serbs recently clashed with Kosovo police and then the NATO-led KFOR peacekeeping force, leaving 30 soldiers and over 50 Serbs injured and provoking fears of a renewal of the region's bloody conflicts. Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, outgoing head of the EU Rule of Law Mission, known as EULEX, said that during last week's violent confrontation "there were very serious injuries sustained by several KFOR sol-



**Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti gestures during an interview with The Associated Press in Kosovo's capital Pristina on Thursday, June 8, 2023.**

diers." "There already was violence of the worst kind of thing. Everyone ... says we're lucky that there were no casualties."

After the soldiers were injured last week, NATO said it would send an additional 700 troops to northern Kosovo. Wigemark said the time would come when EULEX civilian police, who no longer have executive powers but only "monitoring and mentoring Kosovo

police," wouldn't be needed in Kosovo.

"But the conditions are not quite there yet," he said.

The European diplomat did not rule out that NATO could decide to deploy "thousands of military troops" in Kosovo.

"If the situation is becoming increasingly unstable, if it starts to escalate again, of course, that is an option."

The clashes grew out of an earlier confrontation after

ethnic Albanian candidates who were declared the winners of local elections in northern Kosovo entered municipal buildings to take office and were blocked by Serbs. Ethnic Serbs overwhelmingly boycotted the votes.

Brussels has asked Kosovo to withdraw its special police forces from northern Kosovo, where most of the ethnic Serb minority lives, and to hold fresh elections.

In February and March, Kosovo and Serbia reached a EU-facilitated deal on normalizing relations, with an 11-point plan for implementation. The process remains the focus of the talks mediated by the envoys from Washington and Brussels. Kurti insisted the special police forces could not be "downsized" until criminal Serb gangs either left the country or were arrested. He said there was peace in Kosovo if there were no "orders for violence from Belgrade."

Western powers should not indulge Belgrade, the root problem of the violence in the Western Balkans, Kurti said. Kurti complained that even for the April snap election in the four northern municipalities with a Serb majority population, "international mediators, European facilitators failed us." He said they urged Kosovo to make electoral amendments but did not put pressure on the ethnic Serbs' only political party to take part in the vote.

He said he would need the international community's help to foster political pluralism in the ethnic Serb minority "for a fair competition, for a democratic race for new mayors." □

## U.S. company signs agreement to enter retail fuel market in crisis-hit Sri Lanka

By **BHARATHA MALLA-WARACHI**

**Associated Press**

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** —

A U.S. petroleum company signed an agreement with Sri Lanka on Thursday allowing it to import and sell fuel in the country, less than a month after Chinese petroleum giant Sinopec also acquired rights to enter the retail market, as the Indian Ocean nation grapples with an economic and energy crisis.

RM Parks Inc. signed the agreement in collaboration with Shell and will be able to import, distribute and sell petroleum products for 20 years, the Power

and Energy Ministry said. It can sell petroleum products through 150 fuel stations currently operated by state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corp., and also invest in 50 new fuel stations, the ministry said.

The agreement will help "address the foreign exchange crisis in Sri Lanka and ensure a steady supply of fuel," the president's office said in a statement.

RM Parks says it has supplied a variety of fuel brands to stations in California for almost 50 years.

Sri Lankan authorities have opened the retail fuel market to more foreign companies in an effort to solve

the energy crisis as the country's depleted foreign reserves hinder imports of oil.

The foreign companies are required to use their own funds to purchase fuel, without depending on Sri Lankan banks for foreign exchange.

Sri Lankan authorities have already granted approval to three foreign companies to enter the retail fuel market, and two have signed contracts. Australia's United Petroleum has yet to finalize an agreement.

Sinopec signed a contract on May 22 and will be able to begin operations in Sri Lanka within 45 days after

the issuance of its license. An Indian oil company was

already operating in Sri Lanka. □



**Sri Lankan auto rickshaw drivers queue up to buy petrol near a fuel station in Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 13, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram

and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from ***Craig de Groot & Jamey Welch from Union City, NJ.***

*They wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is a place of acceptance and relaxation. Every time my boyfriend and I visit, we're not only welcomed with open arms, we also have the chance to relax, recharge and momentarily escape our hectic NYC lives. This is our 4th visit and it definitely won't be our last. Thank you to Aruba and your wonderful residents for creating such beautiful memories for us."*

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐



## What to do in case of a hurricane emergency on Aruba (2nd edition)

**(Oranjestad)—On June 2nd, we published the Aruban Health Department's (DVG) first edition of hurricane season guidelines. Once again, they have recently published their second edition containing more emergency guideline in the rare case of a serious hurricane emergency on the island. At a time when official institutions such as the Government and the Disaster Management Bureau inform us that there is a high possibility of experiencing a hurricane in the coming days, it is important for us to continue with our preparations.**

### 72 hours or 3 days before the hurricane's arrival:

- Prepare a bag in which all essential materials and important items are packed. Consider this as your emergency bag.
- Gather important documents such as passports, medical histories, or necessary medications, and store them in plastic Ziploc bags inside the emergency bag.
- Create or purchase a first-aid kit consisting of items such as band-aids, antiseptic solution, gauze, bandages, and pain relievers like paracetamol or voltaren, as well as other items that may be needed for minor injuries that don't require immediate medical attention.
- If you or any family member



takes daily medication, make sure you have enough to last for a few days. Place these medications in Ziploc bags and store them in the emergency bag. Do the same if someone in the family uses a daily medical device.

- Pack some snacks and bottled water in the emergency bag.
- Assign a responsible person to have and carry the emergency bag at all times.
- Ensure you have a flashlight with batteries and a whistle with you.
- Sit down and create an evacuation plan in case your family needs to leave their location. Don't forget to include plans for your pets.

### 48 hours or 2 days before the hurricane's arrival:

Prepare a space in your home where your family can stay during the hours when the hurricane is passing. This space should preferably be an area with few or no windows and doors.

- Make arrangements for your pets in this space.
- Fill your car with gasoline or diesel.
- Ensure you have enough drinking water for each family member (2 liters per person).
- Purchase some canned food and snacks (make sure you have a

manual can opener).

- If you have perishable food in the refrigerator, set the temperature to the maximum capacity and avoid opening it regularly.

24 hours or 1 day before the hurricane's arrival:

- Secure doors and windows by nailing or covering them with plywood or some other strong material.
- Charge your phones and other essential electronic devices.
- Review the evacuation plan.
- Prepare both electronic and non-electronic games and activities to entertain your family during the following hours and days.

Stay tuned for edition nr. 3, where the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau, will provide further instructions on what to do during and after a hurricane has passed.

For more information, please like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram "directie\_volksgesondheid\_aruba," visit our website [www.dvg.aw](http://www.dvg.aw), call us at 5224200, or email us at [servicio@dvg.aw](mailto:servicio@dvg.aw). ☐



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel



Fontein



of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian

drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse of prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island



Huliba / Tunnel of Love



for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave

has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐

GUADIRIKIRI





**BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!**

**50/30**  
*Friday!*

We're giving away  
**\$50 Free Slot Play**  
to lucky slot and table  
game players **every**  
**30 minutes** from  
7pm to Midnight!

**THE SHOPS**  
**AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,  
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar  
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood  
Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

*Alhambra*  
**CASINO AND SHOPS**

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | [casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## Canadians Lead the Way in Carry-On

We have the pleasure to share with you a story one of our readers, Antoinetta DeWit from Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada has shared with us about her two wonderful friends Sue and Rick. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did and we thank everyone who submits their stories for trusting us and sharing your awesome stories with us and our readers.

### The story is as follows;

Two Canadian travelers named Rick and Sue have happily returned to Aruba after a three and a half year absence. They have dreamt of this vacation for a long time, and prepared

well.

One day Rick was perusing on line for the latest in carry-on baggage, when something very odd, but intriguing, popped up on the screen — a carry-on complete with motorized mobility technology assistance. At first it seemed surreal but he placed the order, and three days later the delivery was received at their home in Uxbridge, Ontario.

Their curiosity continued as they excitedly opened the box, read the instructions and tried it out in their driveway. It truly was as amazing as they imagined.

They packed the suitcase with as much as they could, zipped it up and tried it again. It worked every bit as well for Sue as it did for Rick. The luggage operates with a lithium battery and includes a throttle and hand brakes. It became almost as exciting as the trip!

Welcome to Aruba — Sue and Rick. You have no doubt caught the eyes of many fellow travelers and perhaps even started a whole new traveling phenomenon for people with mobility challenges.

Enjoy our One Happy Island and safe, easy travels back to Canada. ☐



## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

**ORANJESTAD** - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered street-car operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine

restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! ☐





# History of fishing in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD —** Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz



all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di

boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

## Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snap-

per, grouper and amber-jack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa





# Aruba: the legend behind its name

**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his

son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

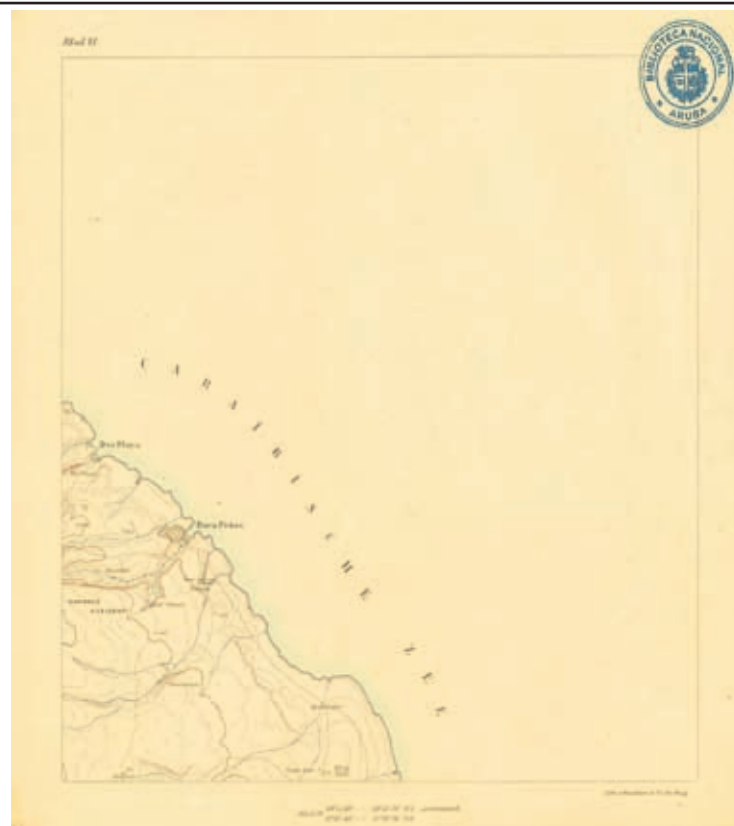
Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

**Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock**





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 35 Machu Picchu
  - 1 Does something people
  - 5 Gushing review
  - 36 Secreting organ
  - 9 Less common
  - 38 Some pickles
  - 11 In debt
  - 39 Spine-tingling
  - 13 Cheer up
  - 40 Big rig
  - 14 Israel's Meir
  - 41 Look after
  - 15 Pole worker
  - DOWN
  - 1 Staggering
  - 8 Salad green
  - 16 Creeper supporter
  - 2 Inexperienced
  - 10 Made new knots
  - 18 More high-minded
  - 3 Roundabout
  - 12 Nebula makeup
  - 20 Caesar's "hail"
  - 4 Match part
  - 17 Roulette bet
  - 21 Ultra-excited
  - 5 "Message received"
  - 19 Loyal
  - 22 A long time
  - 6 MP's quarry
  - 22 Prefix with dynamic
  - 23 Cow's chew
  - 24 Phone bill addition
  - 25 Track event
  - 27 Most awful
  - 29 Boxing great
  - 30 Like Caravaggio's art
  - 32 Writer Kingsolver
  - 34 Ornate vase

F	O	L	D			S	W	E	A	T
A	L	O	O	F		P	A	N	D	A
C	I	R	C	E		A	R	G	O	N
E	V	E		D	E	N	M	A	R	K
D	E	N	V	E	R			G	E	
			I	R	A	N		E	R	R
	C	A	M	E		A	D	D	S	
M	A	G		R	A	M	I			
O	D	E			D	E	N	I	M	S
D	E	N	T	I	S	T		V	E	T
E	N	D	E	D		A	M	O	R	E
S	C	A	L	E		G	O	R	G	E
T	E	S	L	A			E	Y	E	D

## Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11			12
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19				20		
	21					22			
		23			24				
25	26				27			28	
29				30					31
32			33				34		
35					36	37			
38					39				
	40					41			

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

P E K Z X W M E P G I L G H M Q P G A  
F N M M Q X Q H T P G X D D H L M Q X  
Q X E W M ' D E L L X Z M P H G D E G B  
M Q X M W N M Q H L M Q X  
P K E A P G E M P H G . — I H Q G U X E M D

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GREEN WAS THE SILENCE. WET WAS THE LIGHT. THE MONTH OF JUNE TREMBLED LIKE A BUTTERFLY. — PABLO NERUDA

# Bluesky, championed by Jack Dorsey, was supposed to be Twitter 2.0. Can it succeed?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
AP Technology Writer

Bluesky, the internet's hottest members-only spot at the moment, feels a bit like an exclusive club, populated by some Very Online folks, popular Twitter characters, and fed up ex-users of the Elon Musk-owned platform.

Musk is not on it and this might be part of the appeal for those longing for the way things were before the Tesla billionaire bought Twitter and upended nearly everything about the social network, from rules against harassment to content moderation to its system for verifying prominent users' identities. It also helps that Bluesky grew out of Twitter a pet project of former CEO Jack Dorsey, who still sits on its board of directors.

"It was designed to replace Twitter," said Sol Messing, who worked at Twitter as a data scientist until January and is now associate professor at New York University's Center for Social Media and Politics. "And you can see it in the way that the the system is designed. It works like Twitter." But can Bluesky replace Twitter? Prominent Twitter users such as the model Chrissy Teigen, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Dril, a humorous account that grew out of "weird Twitter" and has been poking fun at Musk since the billionaire took over the platform, are active users. Journalists, academics and politicians the users who helped make



The app for Bluesky is shown on a mobile phone, left, and on a laptop screen, in New York, Friday, June 2, 2023.

Associated Press

Twitter into the culture's zeitgeist are also flocking to the app (if they can score invite codes).

"Really wondering about where the line is to leave the other place," wrote or "skeeted" Ocasio-Cortez recently, expressing concern about how Musk's Twitter will handle next year's presidential elections. "There's a line where the harm of unchecked disinfo exceeds the benefits of direct, authentic communication. It's really sad." Bluesky, though, has bigger ambitions than to simply supplant Twitter. Beyond the social network itself, it is building the technical foundation what it calls "a protocol for public conversation" that could make social networks work more like email, blogs or phone numbers.

In computer science, protocols are technical rules for processing and transmitting data, shared standards to which everyone agrees to adhere. Without

the TCP/IP protocol, for instance, we wouldn't have the internet.

When you call someone on the phone, it doesn't matter if they use Verizon or AT&T or Cricket Wireless as long as their phone has service, they can pick up and talk to you. But on Facebook, or TikTok, or Twitter, you can't cross over to another social network to leave a comment on someone's account. Twitter users must stay on Twitter and TikTok users must stay on TikTok if they want to interact with accounts on those services.

There's no crossing over no interoperability. Big Tech companies have largely built moats around their online properties, which helps serve their advertising-focused business models. Your Twitter friends are your Twitter friends, and if you move on to a new social network, you can't easily bring them with you if you can bring them at all. Bluesky is trying to reimagine all this. Moonshot or delusion, what is clear is that invites to the Bluesky social networking app are hot commodity, some even offered on eBay for \$100 or more. But as everyone including Musk, who paid \$44 billion for Twitter knows, a social network's value is not simply in the technology behind it. □

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

**+297 565-9535**

**WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM**



# DNA sucked into air filters can reveal what plants and animals are nearby

**By MADDIE BURAKOFF**  
**AP Science Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — DNA is all around us — even in the air we breathe. Now scientists have found that air quality monitoring stations which pull in air to test for pollution also pick up lots of DNA that can reveal what plants and animals have been in the area. The method could help solve the tricky challenge of keeping tabs on biodiversity, according to a study published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*. The findings suggest that biodiversity data has been collected “on massive scales literally for decades and nobody’s noticed,” said study author Elizabeth Clare, a biologist at Canada’s York University. As animals and plants go through their life cycles, they leave little bits of themselves in the environment scales, fur, feathers, pollen which carry their genetic signature. Scientists have long known that this kind of environmental DNA floats around in water, and have used it to track what species are swimming in lakes and rivers. But it’s been harder to get a genetic picture of what’s roaming around on land, said Kristine Bohmann, who studies environmental DNA at the University of Copenhagen and was not involved with the latest study. In 2021, both Bohmann and Clare worked on similar projects to see whether they could pull animal DNA from thin air. After setting up vacuum pumps in local zoos, the teams were able to sequence DNA from dozens of species. “You can actually, in a Ghostbuster kind of way, vacuum DNA out of the air,” Bohmann said. Then researchers wanted to try that on a bigger scale. For this latest study, Clare and her team tested air filters from two monitoring stations, one in London and



**This photo provided by the National Physical Laboratory in June 2023 shows air sampling filters stationed outside the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, England.**  
**Associated Press**

one in Scotland, which are part of a national network to test for pollution. After extracting DNA from pieces of the filter disks, the scientists were able to identify more than 180 different kinds of plants and animals, said study author Joanne Littlefair, a biologist at Queen Mary University of London. The filters picked up on a wide range of wildlife, including grasses, fungi, deer, hedgehogs and songbirds along with “the ubiquitous pigeon,” Littlefair said. Now, the team hopes that this method could track ecosystems all over the world. Even though biodiversity decline is a global

issue, it’s hard to test for on a large scale, Clare said. And it’s an easy lift to use systems that are already in place, pointed out James Allerton, an air quality scientist at the UK’s National Physical Laboratory. Many countries have networks set up to monitor air quality, and some of them store their old filters for years or even decades an archive that could help show how ecosystems have changed over time. More research is needed to see if the data from these filters can show real biodiversity trends over time, said Fabian Roger, who has been working on a similar project at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. □



## Classifieds

**Caribbean Palm Village**  
1 BR wk 24 room 7303 \$2,5K  
1 BR wk 24 room 5306 \$2K  
1 BR wk 24 room 1207 \$2,5K  
2 BR wk 24 room 5109 \$3K  
2 BR wk 24 room 7308 \$2,5 K  
Call: 001-297-526-2883  
Laura.croes@cpvr.com  
216730

**Caribbean Palm Village**  
1 BR wk 22 room 5105 \$2,5K  
1 BR wk 22 room 7102 \$2K  
1 BR 22 room 1301 \$2,5K  
2 BR wk 22 room 5109 \$3K  
2 BR wk 22 room 7202 \$2,5 K  
Call: 001-297-526-2883  
Laura.croes@cpvr.com  
216730

**Caribbean Palm Village**  
1 BR wk 23 room 1305 \$2,5K  
1 BR wk 23 room 7104 \$2K  
1 BR 23 room 2105 \$2,5K  
2 BR wk 23 room 2101 \$3K  
2 BR wk 23 room 5210 \$2,5 K  
Call: 001-297-526-2883  
Laura.croes@cpvr.com  
216730



**Editor**  
**Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.**  
**Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668**  
**Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.**  
**Acc. #23951903**  
**RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772**

### Editors

**Pilar Flores**  
**Richard Brooks**  
**Angenette Figuero**

### Sales

**Mark Gomes**  
**Sulaika Croes**

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
f @arubatoday



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**  
**Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm**  
**Tel. 527 4000**  
**San Nicolas**  
**Imsan 24 hours**  
**Tel. 524 8833**

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**  
**Trupiaal: Tel. 583 8560**  
**Aloe : Tel. 584 4606**

### OTHER

**Dental Clinic 587 9850**  
**Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002**  
**Urgent Care 586 0448**  
**Walk-In Doctor's Clinic**  
**+297 588 0539**

### EMERGENCY

<b>Police</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Oranjestad</b>	<b>527 3140</b>
<b>Noord</b>	<b>527 3200</b>
<b>Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
<b>San Nicolas</b>	<b>584 5000</b>
<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
<b>Ambulancia</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Red Cross</b>	<b>582 2219</b>

### TAXI SERVICES

<b>Taxi Tas</b>	<b>587 5900</b>
<b>Prof. Taxi</b>	<b>588 0035</b>
<b>Taxi D.T.S.</b>	<b>587 2300</b>
<b>Taxi Serv. Aruba</b>	<b>583 3232</b>
<b>A1 Taxi Serv.</b>	<b>280 2828</b>

### TRAVEL INFO

<b>Aruba Airport</b>	<b>524 2424</b>
<b>American Airlines</b>	<b>582 2700</b>
<b>Avianca</b>	<b>588 0059</b>
<b>Jet Blue</b>	<b>588 2244</b>
<b>Surinam</b>	<b>582 7896</b>

### AID FOUNDATIONS

**FAVI- Visually Impaired**  
**Tel. 582 5051**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**Tel. 736 2952**  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
**Tel. 583 8989**  
**Fundacion Contra Violencia**  
**Relacional Tel. 583 5400**  
**Centre for Diabetes**  
**Tel. 524 8888**  
**Child Abuse Prevention**  
**Tel. 582 4433**  
**Quota Club Tel. 525 2672**

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118





## In 'Blue Jean,' a nuanced picture of life as a lesbian in Margaret Thatcher's Britain

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

A high school gym teacher grappling with her sexual identity is challenged on both a micro and macro level in 1988 England in "Blue Jean," a quietly complex portrait of compartmentalization and self-actualization.

In October 1987, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave a speech in which she bemoaned the state of education and said that "Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay." This was just part of her critique of the state of education and the agenda of "extremist teachers" pushing "political slogans" and "anti-racist mathematics" who are cheating children out of a "sound start in life." By May of 1988, a law was passed (Section 28) that would "prohibit the promotion of homosexuality" and would remain in effect in some form until 2003. Don't worry if the law doesn't sound familiar either — it was news to both the film's director and star. The film, which opens in lim-



This image released by Magnolia Pictures shows Rosy McEwen in a scene from "Blue Jean." Associated Press

ited release Friday, is the assured directorial debut of Georgia Oakley, who focuses her script not on the women who went out to protest as the House of Lords debated Section 28, but on one who was still coming to terms with her own identity. Jean (Rosy McEwen) is not terribly political, and, like most teachers, keeps her private life to herself. But she's also one whose livelihood and passion (teaching) would be directly threatened by

the law. Her journey in the film is a human one there are mistakes, deep regrets, and casualties and it's her flaws that make her relatable. She is not, in other words, exactly an inspirational hero.

At the beginning, Jean leads a quiet life. She lives alone in an apartment and commutes to teach gym to high schoolers and coach the girls' netball team. She loves her work and takes it seriously but keeps a distance from both the stu-

dents and her fellow teachers, eating alone at lunch and declining persistent requests to go out for a pint after work. Some nights she meets up with her girlfriend, Viv (Kerrie Hayes), and a group of other lesbians at an underground bar. Unlike Jean, who is described as a deer in headlights, these other women are out and proud.

When an older woman sneers at Jean and Viv eating together, Jean shrinks while Viv goes on the offen-

sive. In the background, radio news broadcasts speak about the looming Section 28.

The message Jean takes from all of this is to hide. In her mind, this makes sense because teachers need to set boundaries with their students and co-workers. But then a new girl arrives at school, Lois (Lucy Halliday) who is also gay and Jean's meticulously segregated life starts to crumble, especially after Lois sees her out with Viv and friends, and Jean retreats further into herself. Is it her responsibility to look protect or guide Lois through this aspect of her life? Jean will make a shocking decision before the end of the film.

Jean is both an introvert and a product of her environment she doesn't speak to her mother anymore and her more conservative, heterosexual sister's attempts at supporting Jean mostly make her feel worse. She scolds Jean for exposing her 5-year-old son to Viv, even though she drops the kid off at her apartment without any warning. Jean is also scolded by Viv for telling her nephew that she's "a friend." □

## 'The Righteous,' an opera set among American Southwest church communities, to premiere in 2024



U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith stands in a rotunda of the Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, N.M., on Jan. 12, 2018. Associated Press

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)** — The Santa Fe Opera will present the world premiere of "The Righteous" by composer Gregory Spears with a libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy K. Smith on July 13 next year.

The opera, set among church communities in the American Southwest, stars baritone Michael Mayes as a preacher who becomes governor during a period stretching from the Iran hostage crisis in 1979 to the Gulf War in the 1990s, the company announced Wednesday. The cast includes countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, bass-

baritones Greer Grimsley and Nicholas Newton, sopranos Amber Wagner and Elena Villalón, and mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano.

Spears and Smith collaborated on "Castor and Patience," which premiered at the Cincinnati Opera last July. Smith won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for poetry and was the U.S. Poet Laureate from 2017-19.

Jordan de Souza conducts a production directed by Kevin Newbury, which will be given six performances through Aug. 13, 2024.

Santa Fe's 2024 season includes a new Louisa Muller

production of Verdi's "La Traviata" opening June 28, starring soprano Mané Galoyan and conducted by Corrado Rovaris; a new Stephen Barlow staging of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" opening June 29, starring bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green and conducted by Harry Bicket; a staging of Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier" first seen at Britain's Garsington Opera in 2021 and starring Rachel Willis-Sørensen; and a revival of Stephen Lawless' 2009 production of Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love)." □



# Unseeded Muchova to face Swiatek in French Open women's final

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Tennis Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — As it is, Karolina Muchova was the unseeded, unexpected participant in the French Open semifinals.

And then, dealing with cramping legs nearly three hours into the match, she was just one point from losing to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who entered Thursday with a 12-0 Grand Slam record in 2023, including an Australian Open title.

Muchova somehow worked her way out of that difficult situation, grabbing the last five games against an error-prone Sabalenka for a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory at Roland Garros to reach her first major final at the last place she expected.

"A roller coaster," Muchova said.

In Saturday's title match, she will meet No. 1 Iga Swiatek, the defending champion, who got past No. 14 Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-2, 7-6 (7) on Thursday night. Swiatek is seeking a third title in Paris and fourth major championship in all and her win in the semifinals assured the 22-year-old from Poland of remaining atop the WTA rankings.

At No. 43, Muchova is the fourth-lowest-ranked women's finalist in French Open history. On the other hand, she is now 5-0 for her career



Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic celebrates winning her semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in three sets, 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 8, 2023.

against players ranked in the Top 3.

It was tough to decide which was more stunning: that Sabalenka lost or the way she lost.

"I just tried to keep fighting and it worked," Muchova said. "I really don't know what happened."

Well, here are the basics: Sabalenka held a match point while ahead 5-2 in the third set, but Muchova erased that with a forehand winner. That began a run in which Muchova collected 20 of the last 24 points.

"After that game, she kind of stepped in and started playing a little bit more aggressive, and I kind of lost my rhythm," was Sabalenka's summation. "Yeah, I wasn't there."

Until Saturday, this trip to Paris was far more complicated off the court for Sabalenka than on it, where all six of her opponents was unseeded.

The subject of Belarus' role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine the attacks began in February 2022 and continue to this day and Sabalenka's stance on the

matter arose repeatedly, in part because she faced two Ukrainian opponents. She was asked about the war following each of her first two victories, and Sabalenka refused to participate in standard post-match news conferences after her next two contests, saying she felt unsafe and wanted to protect her mental health and well-being. She returned to speaking to the media after her quarterfinal win.

"Some challenges," Sabalenka said. "Emotional challenges."

Swiatek did not begin particularly well on Thursday, getting broken at love in the very first game. But she quickly turned that set around. Then, in the second, the big-swinging, left-handed Haddad Maia took a 3-1 lead, before Swiatek got back on serve.

In the tiebreaker, Haddad Maia held a set point at 6-5, but she slapped a seemingly neutral ball into the net. A few moments later, it was over, allowing Swiatek to improve to 60-13 in Grand Slam play for her career the same record Serena Williams had after 73 matches at majors.

Hours earlier, in the 80-degree warmth of Court Philippe Chatrier, Muchova's variety and all-court style provided the right mix against one of the game's biggest hitters.

An oversimplification, granted, but think of it this way: Sabalenka tries to hit the ball past her opponent; Muchova tries to hit the ball away from her opponent.

"It's kind of a little bit tricky to build points against her," Sabalenka said.

The third set appeared to tilt toward Sabalenka when her pressure prompted some extra errors. A long forehand by Muchova resulted in a service break and a 4-2 lead for Sabalenka, who held for 5-2. □

## Jack Draper to miss Wimbledon because of shoulder injury

**LONDON (AP)** — Jack Draper will miss Wimbledon because of a shoulder injury that forced him out of the French Open.

The 21-year-old British player said Thursday he needs time to recover from his latest injury setback.

At Roland Garros last Monday, Draper retired from his first-round match against Tomas Martin Etcheverry while trailing by a set and 1-0.

The 6-foot-4 left-hander, who is ranked 55th, had hoped to make his third

appearance at the All England Club next month.

"It's clear my shoulder is going to need time and rehab to get back to where it needs to be," Draper wrote on Instagram. "My team and I have made the difficult decision to miss the grass court season this year."

In March at Indian Wells, Draper retired from his fourth-round match against Carlos Alcaraz because of a stomach muscle injury. A hamstring injury ended Draper's run to the third

round of last year's U.S. Open.

"I guess in this sport there are so many ups and downs but this one is tough to take," he wrote Thursday.

Draper won't be the only young British star missing from Wimbledon. Emma Raducanu, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, announced in May that she would be sidelined for several months to have procedures on both hands and an ankle. □



Jack Draper, of Britain, serves to Leandro Riedi, of Switzerland, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Thursday, March 9, 2023, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press



# Rays sweep Twins 4-2, now 46-19 on the season

By **MARK DITLER**  
**Associated Press**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — Yonny Chirinos pitched well into the sixth inning, Harold Ramírez homered during a three-run fourth inning, and the MLB-best Tampa Bay Rays completed a three-game sweep by beating the AL Central-leading Minnesota Twins 4-2 on Thursday.

Chirinos (3-1), recalled from Triple-A Durham before the game, allowed one run and five hits over 5 2/3 innings in his first big-league appearance since April 29. Jason Adam, the third Rays reliever, worked the ninth to get his 10th save in 14 chances.

Tampa Bay is 29-6 at home, has won six in a row overall and is 46-19 on the season. Carlos Correa, who returned Tuesday after missing three games after re-aggravating plantar fasciitis in his left foot, and Michael A. Taylor homered for the Twins, who have lost a sea-



**Tampa Bay Rays' Harold Ramirez, celebrates his two-run home run with third base coach Brady Williams (4) off Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Bailey Ober during the fourth inning of a baseball game Thursday, June 8, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.**

son-high five consecutive games.

The Twins lead their division despite falling under .500 at 31-32, and have scored a combined seven runs in the

past six games.

Minnesota's Bailey Ober (3-3) retired his first 11 batters, including six consecutive strikeouts in the second and third, before he lost the

perfect game and lead in the span of three batters.

After Randy Arozarena walked with two outs in the fourth.

Luke Raley had an RBI triple

and Harold Ramírez hit a two-run shot on back-to-back pitches to put the Rays up 3-1.

The start of the fourth was delayed when Ober returned into the dugout after being inspected by the umpires. The right-hander gave up four runs, three hits and two walks over 5 1/3 innings.

Raley tripled for the second time in three games. His triple Tuesday was his first in the majors, coming in his 102nd game.

Tampa Bay went ahead 4-1 in the sixth when Wander Franco stole third and came home when reliever Griffin Jax stepped off the rubber and made an errant throw to third.

The Rays have stolen a team-record 31 consecutive bases without being caught.

Correa hit his seventh homer, a 107.4 mph, 406-foot drive to left, leading off the fourth. It was his first long ball since May 13. □

**Associated Press**

# Clayton Kershaw strikes out 9 in Dodgers' 6-0 win over Reds

By **KEITH JENKINS**  
**Associated Press**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Clayton Kershaw pitched seven scoreless innings, Chris Taylor hit his 10th home run of the season and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Cincinnati Reds 6-0 on Thursday afternoon.

Kershaw (8-4, 2.95 ERA) scattered five hits, struck out nine and walked two to help Los Angeles snap its four-game losing streak and avoid a three-game series sweep against the Reds, who won the previous two games in walk-off fashion.

Los Angeles improved to 10-3 against Cincinnati dating back to September 2021.

The Dodgers struck first in the third inning, scoring three runs against Reds starter Graham Ashcraft (3-5, 6.78 ERA). The right-hander plunked both James

Outman and Mookie Betts. Outman later came around to score on a base hit by Freddie Freeman.

Ashcraft walked the bases loaded for David Peralta, who brought home two more on a line drive to center field. Ashcraft was pulled after 48 pitches.

Los Angeles seized a 4-0 lead in the fourth on a 401-foot home run to center by Chris Taylor off Cincinnati reliever Fernando Cruz.

The Dodgers added two more runs in the frame, as Austin Barnes doubled in Outman, who reached on a walk, and Barnes crossed home plate on a sacrifice fly by Freeman.

After batting left-handed in his first two big league games, Elly De La Cruz switched to the other side of the plate to face Kershaw. De La Cruz hit an infield single and then collected his first stolen base in

the majors.

De La Cruz faced Kershaw again in the sixth. With runners at the corners and no outs, De La Cruz drew an automatic ball due to a pitch-clock violation by Kershaw. Kershaw then threw three straight strikes, including a nasty breaking ball on the last one, to send De La Cruz swinging back to the dugout.

De La Cruz got one more at-bat in the eighth, this time against reliever Tayler Scott. He struck out swinging on the fifth pitch. The 6-foot-5 slugger finished the day 1 for 4 with three strikeouts.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: RHP Tayler Scott was recalled, while RHP Noah Syndergaard was placed on the 15-day injured list with a blister on his right index finger. Manager Dave Roberts said Syndergaard will be out at least

"a few weeks" to both heal and get away from baseball to "reset" physically, mentally and emotionally. Reds: RHP Hunter Greene remains on pace to start Sunday in St. Louis, manager David Bell said. Greene hasn't pitched since June 1 due to stiffness in his right hip.

## UP NEXT

Dodgers: Los Angeles heads to Philadelphia on Friday to open a three-game series against the Phillies. RHP Michael Grove (0-2, 8.14 ERA) will lead the Dodgers against LHP Ranger Suárez (1-2, 5.47 ERA) and the defending NL champions. □



**Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw (22) throws in the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Cincinnati, Thursday, June 8, 2023.**

**Associated Press**